

APR 22 2026

ACCEPTED BY

**IN THE TRIBAL COURT
FOR THE TULE RIVER TRIBE OF CALIFORNIA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE:
CIVILITY AND PROFESSIONALISM**

**TRTC-AO-0007
April 15, 2026**

Pursuant to the TULE RIVER TRIBAL CODE (hereinafter “Judicial Code”), Title III, §2.02(B) and §3.07, the Tule River Indian Tribal Council has authorized and empowered the Tule River Indian Tribal Court Chief Judge and the Tule River Indian Tribal Court Administrator¹ to adopt Court Rules to ensure the effective and efficient operations of the entire Tule River Indian Tribal Court system.² TULE RIVER TRIBAL CODE, Title III, § 1.12. The Chief Judge and the Tribal Court Administrator find that it is necessary to adopt an administrative order addressing Civility and Professionalism.

The Tule River Indian Tribal Court has an obligation to effectively carry out the administration of justice. This obligation can only be carried out while working with the parties to cases, lawyers, advocates, witnesses, and other individuals interacting with the Court. As a result, all individuals interacting with the Court have an obligation to conduct themselves with professionalism, civility, integrity, personal dignity, candor, diligence, respect, courtesy, and cooperation, all of which are essential to the fair administration of justice and conflict resolution. Uncivil or unprofessional conduct not only disserves the individual involved, it demeans the system of justice.

SECTION 1. The dignity, decorum and courtesy are essential to an atmosphere that promotes justice and for the fair and impartial administration of justice.

SECTION 2. All individuals interacting with the Court should treat all Tribal Court staff with courtesy and respect.

SECTION 3. Any party’s communications about the legal system should at all times reflect civility, professional integrity, personal dignity, and respect for the legal system.

¹ The Judicial Code, the formal title of Director of Justice Services is synonymous to the Tribal Court Administrator.

² Referring to Trial Court, Court of Appeals, Wellness Court, the Peacemaking Panel, and Arbitration system.

SECTION 4. All individuals should be punctual in appearing at trials, hearings, meetings, depositions and other scheduled appearances.

SECTION 5. Written materials directed to parties or the Court should be factual and concise and focused on the issue to be decided.

SECTION 6. In a social setting or otherwise, all individuals should not communicate ex parte with a judicial officer on the substance of a case pending before the court, unless permitted by law.

SECTION 7. All individuals should respect the privacy rights of parties and non-parties.

SECTION 8. All individuals interacting with the Court shall not harass, demean, threaten, or otherwise be disrespectful to Court staff.

VIOLATIONS. Any violations of this Administrative Order may be addressed through contempt proceedings, which may result in fines, damages, incarceration, or any other appropriate remedy. The type of contempt will be determined by the severity of the violation. The Chief Judge and the Tribal Court Administrator are hereby generally authorized to enforce this Administrative Order, if any violation occurs that does not involve a pending case. However, in each and every pending case, the Presiding Judge and the Tribal Court Administrator are authorized to take any appropriate action pursuant to this Administrative Order. If the Tribal Court Administrator has a conflict or is not available, the Tribal Court Administrator may delegate enforcement authority to an appropriate Tribal Court staff member.


Hon. Judge Paul Tsosie (Apr 21, 2026 17:56:37 MDT)
TRITC Chief Judge
Paul Tsosie


Chelsea James (Apr 15, 2026 14:57:08 PDT)
TRITC Tribal Court Administrator
Chelsea James